

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor

Governor

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors 124 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 www.njconsumeraffairs.gov

October 22, 2014

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JOHN J. HOFFMAN

Acting Attorney General

By Certified and Regular Mail 70081140000497687260

Richard Stockton, P.L.S. 210 E. Highland Avenue P.O. Box 124 Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

I/M/O Richard Stockton, P.L.S.

Uniform Penalty Letter - Case #99419

NOTICE OF CHARGES

Dear Mr. Stockton:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review charges that you and/or your firm, Richard E. Stockton & Assoc., Inc, have engaged in the unlicensed practice of engineering by: (1) preparing a grading plan showing proposed conditions dated June 3, 2013 for property in Middleton Township, New Jersey; (2) preparing a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan dated August 22, 2013 and drainage report for property in Middleton Township, New Jersey; (3) preparing a site/plot plan dated December 9, 2013 for property in Middleton Township, New Jersey and (4) utilizing the term "engineering" or its derivative, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-27 and N.J.S.A. 45:8-28(b), and without a Certificate of Authorization for land surveying and engineering in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-56 and, further, in violation of the Site Plan Rule, N.J.A.C. 13:40-7.3 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), as evidenced by the attached exhibits.

To avoid further proceedings, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to amicably resolve this matter. Should you wish to do so, then you should "check" the first option on the attached Acknowledgment and sign and return it to the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. If you choose this option, then you agree to the charges set forth above and, further, agree to: (1) immediately cease and desist from the unlicensed practice of engineering as described herein above; (2) immediately cease and desist from offering and/or providing engineering services under the corporate name of "Richard E. Stockton & Assoc., Inc."; and (3) the immediate payment of a total civil penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00 (\$500.00 for the grading plan, \$500.00 for the Soil

Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and drainage report, \$500.00 for the site/plot plan, and \$1,000.00 for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-56, N.J.A.C. 13:40-7.3 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h))by certified check, bank check or money order payable to the "State of New Jersey" which shall accompany the fully executed Acknowledgment.

Alternatively, if you do not wish to resolve this matter without further proceedings, then you should check one of the remaining options on the Acknowledgment and sign and return it for consideration by the Board within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. Once the Board has considered your selection, you will be notified of the outcome. Please note that if you request a hearing, then this letter will serve as notice of the charges against you.

As previously stated, the Acknowledgment should be completed and returned to the Board within thirty (30) days of date of this letter. If you do not complete and return the Acknowledgment within thirty (30) days, then the charges set forth above shall be deemed uncontested and a default shall be entered against you on the 31<sup>st</sup> day. You shall be notified of the entry of a default by written notification from the Board which shall include that you must immediately cease and desist from the unlicensed practice of engineering, immediately cease and desist from offering and/or providing engineering services under the corporate name of "Richard E. Stockton & Assoc., Inc.", and pay the total civil penalty of \$2,500.00 within ten (10) days or a Certificate of Debt shall be issued.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the options offered in the Acknowledgment, then you should seek the advice of your legal counsel.

STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

AND LAND SURVEYORS

By:

KARL REIDEL,

Executive Director

CC: B. Michelle Albertson,
Deputy Attorney General

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Richard Stockton, P.L.S., hereby acknowledge that I have read the above charges against me. I am also aware that the Board's letter and Acknowledgment, as well as any action taken against me by the Board, is a matter of public record.

## PLEASE CHECK ONE:



X I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged and agree to immediately cease and desist from the unlicensed practice of engineering as described herein above and, further, to immediately cease and desist from offering and/or providing engineering services under the corporate name of "Richard E. Stockton & Assoc., Inc." I further agree to immediately pay a total civil penalty of \$2,500.00 (\$500.00 for the grading plan, \$500.00 for the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and drainage report, \$500.00 for the site/plot plan, and \$1,000.00 for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-56, N.J.A.C. 13:40-7.3 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h)) by certified check, bank check or money order payable to the "State of New Jersey", which said payment is attached to this fully executed acknowledgment.

I hereby waive any rights I may have to a hearing in this matter and defend myself against any charges, but ask the Board to consider my enclosed written explanation before rendering its final decision. I understand that the Board may order any of the terms specified in its letter and that if it does so I will be obligated to comply. Failure to comply may subject me to further action and any failure to make a required payment will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt.

I request a formal administrative hearing to be held before the Board at a future date to contest the above charges. support of my hearing request, I have enclosed a fully responsive answer to the charges outlined herein above, including any reasons why the charges, facts giving rise to those charges, or proposed actions and/or penalties, as set forth above in the Board's letter should be modified and/or I understand that my answer shall be reviewed by the Board, and that the Board will determine whether there are material facts in dispute which require a hearing. hearing is not required, then written notification of the Board's decision shall be issued. If a hearing is required, then a date and time for a formal hearing shall be set. I am aware that I may be represented by an attorney and that at the time of the hearing I may submit testimony and evidence relevant to the charges. I understand that in making its final decision, the Board may, if the charges are proven, assess civil penalties and/or costs in an amount greater than that herein offered in its letter and may order such other remedies as it may deem appropriate.

Richard Stockton, P.L.S.

Dated: 11-27-14